

Editorial: InLCA – The International Conference & Exhibition on LCA and LCM

Connecting the International LCA Community

Selected Papers from the InLCA/LCM 2003 Conference

September 23 – 25, 2003 in Seattle/WA, USA

Mary Ann Curran (Special Edition Editor)

LCA Team Leader, US Environmental Protection Agency, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, MS 466, Cincinnati, OH 45268, USA
(curran.maryann@epa.gov)

The international conference 'Life Cycle Assessment/Life Cycle Management: A Bridge to a Sustainable Future,' was held in Seattle, Washington, USA, September 2003 (Fig. 1), and hosted by the American Center for Life Cycle Assessment.



Fig. 1: Seattle

The third in an on-going series, the conference attracted over 200 delegates from around the world. Over 70 presentations were made during four concurrent sessions and covered various aspects of LCA methodology and application, including the following themes:

- Inventory Analysis
- Impact Assessment
- Interpretation and Education
- Novel LCA Methods
- Input/Output Methods & Case Studies
- LCA Databases
- LCA in Design & Manufacturing
- Life Cycle Management
- LCA and Cost Analysis
- LCA and the Supply Chain
- LCA Methods for Buildings
- LCA & Energy Analysis
- LCA & Transportation
- LCA & Purchasing
- Eco-Labels & External Reporting
- Municipal Applications of LCA
- LCA & Government Policy

Prior to the meeting, presenters were asked to submit abstracts and PowerPoint slides, in lieu of full papers, for their talks. These presentation materials can be found at <http://www.lcacenter.org>. From these presentations, 12 were selected for publication as full papers in this special issue of the International Journal of LCA.¹

¹ Four of them have been left for publication in the following issues of 2005 (see the table of contents, p. 19A).

An emphasis was given in the selection process to papers that addressed LCA methodology development.

It is vital to the continued growth and development of life cycle practice to provide a regular forum for the LCA 'community' to come together to exchange ideas and experiences. The first such forum was the conference that was held in Washington, DC, in 2000 and entitled the 'International Life Cycle Assessment Conference and Exhibition' [Ref. 1]. Since that time, the field of LCA has continued to evolve to the point where 'Life Cycle Management' is often used as the broader term. So, the name of the conferences in the series has evolved as well. The next international conference along the life cycle theme will be 'LCM2005: Innovation by Life Cycle Management,' to be held in Barcelona, Spain, September 5–7, 2005 (Fig. 2), at the new International Barcelona Convention Center.



Fig. 2: Barcelona

This venue will provide attendees the opportunity to present or obtain the newest information about applications of life cycle thinking and LCM theory and practice, meet and network with colleagues from all parts of the world and enjoy Barcelona and its Mediterranean environment. The conference will be organized in cooperation with the SETAC-UNEP Life Cycle Initiative. Details can be found at the conference website: <http://www.lcm2005.org>.

See you in Barcelona!

[1] Curran MA (2000): The International Conference & Exhibition of Life Cycle Assessment (InLCA): Tools for Sustainability. Washington, D.C., 25–27 April 2000. Int J LCA 5 (3) 160